

PRAYER MEETING TOPIC

THE PARABLES—"THE UNJUST JUDGE"

I. The Parable. Luke 18: 1-8.

- a. To whom spoken? Luke 17: 1.
- b. Its purpose. v. 1.
- c. The judge: 1. "Feared not God."
2. "Neither regarded man." 3. It is notorious that the judges of those times were corrupt and always took bribes.
- d. The widow: 1. Weak, as any widow would be. 2. Poor, probably. 3. Hence had little chance of being heard by this unjust judge.
- e. The parable shows the efficacy of importunity. v. 5. I Thess. 5: 17.

II Lessons

- a. If an evil man will hear a poor widow whom he despises, how much more will a righteous heavenly Father hear his children when they pray? Matt. 7: 11.
- b. We need more importunity in prayer. Why? 1. Because importunity strengthens faith. 2. Because it shows faith. 3. Because God loves to answer those who really desire a thing.
- c. If you desire anything, ask for it and keep on asking. God will give it as soon as you fulfil the conditions. Mark 11: 24; John 15: 7.

J. L. GILLIN.

SOUND IN THE FAITH

S. KIEHL

A member of the Brethren church, who is sound in the faith, is born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever. I Pet. 1: 23. He bears the fruits of repentance toward God, has a living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, (Acts 20: 20, and because he gladly receives the word of God (Acts 2: 41,) is baptized, for, or unto (Acts 2: 38,) or because of (Acts 10: 47, 48, the remission of sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, (Matt. 28: 19,) manifesting thereby the answer of a good conscience toward God, (I Pet. 3: 21,) and now, like the eunuch, goes on his way rejoicing, (Acts 8: 39,) a child of God by faith in Christ Jesus. Gal. 3: 26.

By the grace of God, he adds to his faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity, II Pet. 1: 5-7.

As the heart panteth after the water brooks, so his soul panteth after the living God, Psal. 42: 1. Occasionally he ascends the Mount of Transfiguration, again he is found in the valley, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

His prayer to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is, that he may be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in his heart by faith, that he might be filled with all the fulness of God, Eph. 3: 14 19. Being thus filled "he walks in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless, always doing those things that please the Father."

His relation to the Brethren church of which he is a member, and whose discipline is the word of God, can only be expressed in the language of Ruth to Naomi—Entreat me not to leave thee, or turn from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go: and where thou lodgest I will lodge, thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me, Ruth 1: 16, 17.

Such a brother or sister is sound in the faith, and is an important factor in the church for good. Dear reader, do you and I belong to this class? If we do, "thanks be to God who giveth us the victory;" a glorious future awaits us. When Christ, who is our life shall appear, then shall we also appear with him in glory, Col. 3: 4. May our Father in heaven in his infinite mercy, for Jesus' sake ever keep us near him.

Dayton, O.

The Ideal Choir

North Carolina Christian Advocate.

We recently read of a choir who, when the communion service began, filed, one by one, out of the church. Now this was a sad sight indeed. We would rather speak of one that we witnessed only last Sunday in the church in which we are an habitual worshiper. Every member of this choir, whose music is always inspiring and often truly edifying, came down to the altar and communed together. Besides all, during the long service—for the congregation was large and the pastor unaided—they all sang in subdued tones one after another of the sweetest, most spiritual songs of Zion. Not every church is so fortunate as this one, but we dare say, kindly words of encouragement will go farther toward making any choir an ideal one, than words of criticism and abuse.

The Sunday School

HOW CAN WE SECURE THE ATTENDANCE OF OUR ELDER MEMBERS AND THE BAD BOY IN OUR BIBLE SCHOOLS?

ALBERT TRENT

The two extremes of the Sunday school problem, the one resting securely within the walls of our beloved Zion and yet sometimes overlooked, the other at the opposite end of our line of work, so distantly beyond her walls, that some of us have scarcely considered it within the horizon of our operations.

At first thought, it seemed to me that this topic scarcely justified the use of the valuable time of this convention required for its discussion, as it apparently deals with what is commonly regarded as two of the extreme details of Sunday school work. After giving it some thought, however, I was soon convinced that the Program Committee had placed before us a question, which, if this convention is able to answer successfully, we will indeed, have accomplished much toward enhancing the interest of the cause we so dearly love. A few moments of thought

will make it apparent to you, that the school that can manage these two extremes of her line of work successfully within her influence and control, has mastered an important problem and is abundantly able to take care of the mean that lies between these two extremes. This conviction of its importance has so deeply impressed me, that I must confess my inability to discuss it in the scholarly and logical manner it deserves before this intelligent audience of earnest workers in the Master's vineyard. But, I shall endeavor as best I can, to present briefly what seems to me to be some practical thoughts that have been reached thru experience, observation and thought along the line of these subjects. First, let us pay our respects to the non-Sunday school attendant elder member: This pillar in the church, who, as far as his children and the Sunday school are concerned always says "go" and never "come." He is indeed a pillar in its most literal sense, frequently resisting and successfully withstanding all the prayers, persuasions and entreaties to bring him into the school session where we may have the advantage of his presence and influence.

Six days in the week he manifests all the activity, energy and thoroughness in his business pursuits that could be expected of one. He doesn't mind the extra effort required to do overtime work when business is especially pressing, or the lodge requires his presence or the political canvass is at hand. Yet, he insists that he hasn't the time to study the Sabbath school lessons. Call his attention to the brethren and sisters who labor and sacrifice day after day to lead sinners into the kingdom, and practically spend their entire Sabbath in teaching and training the rising generation to walk in the Christian way. Ask him what sheaves he expects to bear to the storehouse? How many pounds he has gained for the Master? You can scarcely bring him to grasp the serious aspect of such companions.

His spirituality always seems to be at ebb tide. His cravings along this line are so readily satisfied. One sermon per Sunday or possibly one every two or three Sundays is amply sufficient. The Sunday Journal or newspaper supplies all the rest. And yet, notwithstanding, all these objectionable and discouraging characteristics, he possesses the qualities, if we can secure his attendance and arouse in him an interest in the work, that will make him a most helpful and valuable member. We need his presence so we can become helpful to him and he will become helpful to us. The school needs his attendance for the more grown up scholars, the greater will be her power and influence upon the surrounding community. Her financial interests require his support. The attendance of the bad boy will not be likely to compel the enlargement of the capacity of her treasury, but every S. S. superintendent present knows that the financial interests which are so vital to the successful running of a school depend on the adult membership. And last but not least, the experience gained